



KENAI

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Paul Ostrander
City Manager

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 13, 2020

City of Kenai sets up new CARES Act grants programs for small businesses and commercial fishing permit holders

KENAI, AK — The City of Kenai is expanding its CARES Act grants programs to include two groups not covered by the first round of grants: Smaller businesses, with annual gross revenues of between \$25,000 and \$49,999, and City of Kenai residents who hold Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permits.

Applicants will be eligible for a \$1,000 grant from the City's share of federal CARES Act funding distributed by the state. The City Council on July 1 approved the two new grant programs to further assist Kenai residents who experienced a financial loss due to the COVID-19 health emergency.

Applications went online at the City website on Friday, and the application period will not close until August 30. "We want to provide plenty of time for permit holders in the commercial fisheries, to ensure they will have sufficient opportunity to participate," said City Manager Paul Ostrander. "The Council supported the additional grant program for smaller business owners, who also need some help getting through the financial hit just as much as larger operations," Ostrander said.

The grant program for commercial fishing permit holders requires that the applicant had at least \$10,000 in landings in 2019.

The City will receive \$7.7 million in federal CARES Act funding through the state's allocation formula, and the City Council has decided to distribute about half of the funds to businesses, nonprofits, and individuals in need of financial assistance due to the economic damage of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The first grant application period for businesses and nonprofits closed June 19, and the City a week later sent out almost \$2 million to more than 180 eligible participants before extending the application period to July 17. The grants can be used to help businesses and nonprofits deal with the loss of income due to mandatory shutdowns, inventory loss, additional operating expenses of reopening to the public, costs of protecting staff and customers or the public, or other economic impacts.

The City has set up a page on its website with information on the grants program, and an easy-to-complete application at www.kenai.city. Individuals also may email the City Project Lead for more information, at lpersily@kenai.city, or call Larry Persily at (907) 283-8226.

For a full listing of eligibility criteria, visit the City's website at www.kenai.city.